

CRITERIA FOR THERAPEUTIC VENESECTION

REASON FOR CHANGE: Removal of reference to the ongoing monitoring of ferritin levels following discharge from NZBS care.

REFERRAL POLICY

All patients are to be referred in writing by a physician or general practitioner, either by letter or the NZBS Referral form 107F268a. The referral is to be sent to the local NZBS Collection Centre. Information must include a complete description of the health of the patient, age, other medical conditions, medication history, allergies and results.

GUIDELINES FOR VENESECTION AT AN NZBS DONOR CENTRE

1. All patients must have a confirmed clinical diagnosis or condition that requires venesection. In the case of haemochromatosis each patient must satisfy the diagnosis with relevant genotype or elevated ferritin and raised iron saturation.
2. All referred patients will be clinically assessed by either an NZBS medical officer or Lead TV nurse and a decision made as to their suitability for therapeutic venesection within the NZBS programme.
3. Patients must be aged 16 years or over.
4. Patients with the medical conditions listed below will not normally be eligible for venesection at an NZBS donor centre and will be referred for treatment at the appropriate local hospital
 - Symptomatic heart disease or other symptomatic vascular disease e.g. TIA's, claudication.
 - < 6 months post myocardial infarction or cardiac procedure (e.g. angioplasty/stenting) or < 6 months post cardiac surgery
 - Uncontrolled hypertension (systolic blood pressure > 200mmHg)
 - Severe hepatic dysfunction
 - Severe renal dysfunction
 - Symptomatic chronic obstructive airways disease e.g. O₂ dependent
5. The criteria listed above will not apply when an experienced registered medical practitioner and full resuscitation facilities are immediately available within the Donor Centre.
6. Patients will be assessed by a NZBS Medical Officer or Registered Nurse prior to each procedure. If after assessment it is deemed that the procedure cannot safely be performed the patient will be referred back to their referring clinician.
7. Primary responsibility for the on-going management of patients referred to NZBS for Therapeutic Venesection remains with the General Practitioner or Specialist. NZBS will however monitor the patient's iron status and determine the frequency of venesection based on the results.

GUIDELINES FOR VENESECTION AT AN NZBS MOBILE SITE

1. It is not appropriate to perform therapeutic venesection at an NZBS mobile collection venue for any patient who has not been discharged from the TV clinic.
2. Patients will only be able to donate at Mobile collection sites, once they have been discharged fully from the care of NZBS.
3. At this stage, care and monitoring of the patients iron levels becomes the responsibility of the patient and their General Practitioner.